

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) A method of producing a mouse with an atrioventricular septal defect, comprising:

- (a) producing a transgenic mouse whose genome comprises a heterozygous disruption of the *CCN1* gene;
- (b) testing the transgenic mouse for the presence of an atrioventricular septal defect; and
- (c) identifying a transgenic mouse that has an atrioventricular septal defect.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A method of identifying a mouse with an atrioventricular septal defect, comprising testing a transgenic mouse whose genome comprises a heterozygous disruption of the *CCN1* gene for the presence of an atrioventricular septal defect **and detecting said defect.**

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) A method of identifying a modulator of the development of atrioventricular septal defects, comprising:

- (a) contacting a plurality of transgenic mouse embryos with a suspected modulator, wherein the genome of each of said embryos comprises a heterozygous disruption of the *CCN1* gene;

- (b) measuring atrioventricular septal defects in said transgenic mouse embryos or in postnatal mice arising therefrom; and
- (c) calculating the percentage of said embryos or said postnatal mice displaying an atrioventricular septal defect, wherein a percentage of said embryos or said postnatal mice displaying an atrioventricular septal defect above or below 65% identifies a modulator.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A method of identifying an animal that is predisposed to atrioventricular septal defects, comprising detecting the presence of an alteration in one or more alleles of the *CCN1* gene in a sample comprising DNA isolated from said animal, **wherein said alteration comprises a null mutation in a CCN1 allele.**